

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00092 061658Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 OPR-02 SY-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /076 W
-----061721Z 093691 /44

R 061640Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5713

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

:AMEMBASSY PARIS 2396

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 0092

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, NG

SUBJ:CONTINUING STUDENT UNREST

1. WAR OF NERVES BETWEEN STUDENTS AND GOVERNMENT THAT
CLOSED SOME LYCEES IN DECEMBER (NIAMEY 5103) HAS INTENSIFIED
RECENTLY WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF STUDENTS IN MANY SECONDARY
SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
NIAMEY REFUSING TO RETURN TO CLASSES AFTER CHRISTMAS
RECESS JANUARY 3.

2. AS OF JANUARY 5, MOST SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NIAMEY AS
WELL AS THOSE IN MARADI AND ZINDER PLUS UNIVERSITY WERE
EMPTY. STUDENT ACTION HAS SO FAR BEEN PASSIVE, BOYCOTTING
CLASSES BUT NOT MOUNTING DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST GOVERNMENT.
HOWEVER, STORIES OF ARRESTS, ROUGH TREATMENT OF STUDENTS
AND THEIR CONFINEMENT TO MILITARY CAMPS AS WELL AS CIRCU-
LATION OF CLANDESTINE TRACTS ATTACKING PRESIDENT
KOUNTCHE AND EDUCATION MINISTER IDRISSE AROUNA
HAVE BEEN MAKING ROUNDS IN PAST FEW DAYS. THE
GOVERNMENT'S TACTICS SEEM TO BE TO ISOLATE AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NIAMEY 00092 061658Z

INTIMIDATE INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS WHILE COUNTING ON
MAJORITY TO STRAGGLE BACK TO CLASSES ON THEIR OWN.
GOVERNMENT HAS NOT PUBLICIZED LATEST UNREST AND
THERE HAVE BEEN NO REFERENCES TO IT IN RADIO OR
PRESS. IT APPARENT, HOWEVER, THAT STUDENT ACTION
IS WIDESPREAD AND FAIRLY WELL COORDINATED, FUELED BY
RESENTMENT AT KOUNTCHE'S TOUGH LINE AGAINST STUDENTS

IN DECEMBER 18 SPEECK (NIAMEY 5599), GOVERNMENT'S PERMANENT CLOSING OF TWO LYCEES IN WAKE OF STUDENT INCIDENTS LAST MONTH, AND A CONTINUING FRUSTRATION WITH WHAT ARE PERCEIVED AS HARSH AND HIGH-HANDED ATTITUDES OF MILITARY TOWARD CIVILIANS IN GENERAL.

3. MOST CURIOUS ASPECT OF AFFAIR IS GOVERNMENT'S UNCHARACTERISTICALLY LOW-KEY REACTION TO WHAT COULD BE SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO ITS AUTHORITY, SUGGESTING BOTH SURPRISE ON ITS PART THAT STUDENTS ARE PROVING SO OBDURATE AND A REALIZATION THAT FURTHER REPRESSIVE MEASURES COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. ONE KEY FACTOR IN EQUATION IS PRESTIGE OF EDUCATION MINISTER IDRISSE AROUNA--ALSO MINISTER OF DEFENSE, CLEARLY NO. 2 FIGURE IN SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL, AND A PRIME GUARANTOR OF KOUNTCHE'S POWER BASE IN THE ARMY--WHO IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO HAVE AUTHORED TOUGH STANCE TOWARD STUDENTS IN DECEMBER AND IS APPARENTLY THE BRUNT OF MUCH OF STUDENTS' DISSATISFACTION.

4. STUDENTS WOULD SEEM TO HAVE LITTLE TO GAIN AND A LOT TO LOSE BY PROLONGING THEIR CHALLENGE. THUS CHANCES ARE THEY MAY START RETURNING TO CLASSES SOON IF FURTHER INCIDENTS CAN BE AVOIDED. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED A MODEST VICTORY IN HAVING BEEN ABLE TO SUSTAIN AND DRAMATIZE A PROTEST AGAINST REGIME AND HAVE PERHAPS SET PRECEDENT FOR OTHER CHALLENGES IN FUTURE. DAVISON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENTS, BOYCOTTS, SECONDARY SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, ALLEGATIONS, ARRESTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NIAEMEY00092
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770005-1295
Format: TEL
From: NIAEMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770175/aaaacnqy.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8c70b8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3652379
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUING STUDENT UNREST
TAGS: PINS, PINT, NG, (KOUNTCHE, SEYNI), (AROUNA, IDRISSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c70b8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009